



Wednesday, June 8, 2016 10:00 a.m.
House Room D, General Assembly Building
Meeting Summary

The Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) held its first meeting of the 2016 Interim on Wednesday, June 8, in Richmond. Delegate Kenneth R. Plum, senior member of JCOTS, called the meeting to order. He welcomed to JCOTS newly appointed members Delegate Richard L. Anderson, Senator John A. Cosgrove, and Senator Bill DeSteph.

Delegate Plum opened the floor to nominations for chairman of JCOTS. Delegate Terry Austin nominated Delegate Anderson. The motion was seconded by Senator Cosgrove and was unanimously approved. Senator DeSteph nominated Senator Cosgrove to serve as vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Delegate Plum and was unanimously approved.

Staff provided a brief update on a few key pieces of technology-related legislation adopted by the 2016 Session of the General Assembly. Relevant legislation includes identical bills HB 884 (Hugo) and SB 58 (McDougle), which create a new research and development expenses tax credit for businesses with expenses in excess of \$5 million and modify that existing research and development expenses tax credit; identical bills HB 930 (Davis) and SB 150 (Reeves), recommended by JCOTS, related to the procurement of information technology goods and services; HB 1064 (Jones), which reorganizes and makes technical changes to the duties and responsibilities of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency; and HB 1343 (Jones), which creates the Virginia Research Investment Committee and Fund.

JCOTS next heard from Dr. Yvonne W. Brandon, project manager for the Richmond Regional School for Innovation - CodeRVA. CodeRVA is a proposed high school that would serve the central Virginia region. Supported by a High School Innovation Planning Grant, CodeRVA seeks to redesign the traditional high school model and help build a 21st-century workforce. A copy of Dr. Brandon's presentation is available on the JCOTS website.

Staff presented a proposed JCOTS work plan for the 2016 Interim. The bulk of the focus will center on HJ 97 (Yancey) and SJ 97 (Newman), identical joint resolutions that direct JCOTS to conduct a study of the aerospace and aviation industries and to develop a report entitled "A Blueprint for the Growth of the Virginia Aviation and Aerospace Industry." Staff proposed that in conducting the study, JCOTS partner with the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (the Academy). Dr. Jim Aylor, retired Dean of Engineering at the University of Virginia and a member of the Academy, provided JCOTS with a brief overview of the organization. The Academy is prepared to

assemble an aerospace study group chaired by Dr. Tom Young, retired CEO of Lockheed Martin, to assist JCOTS in its efforts. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership would be requested, pursuant to the joint resolution, to provide recommended economic development strategies related to aviation and aerospace. JCOTS staff would conduct staff work groups related to the sales and use tax on aviation parts and labor and the Denbigh High School Aviation Academy. The work of the various groups would be compiled into a final report. JCOTS approved this work plan for conducting the aviation and aerospace study, and Delegate Anderson appointed Senator Cosgrove, who also serves on the Governor's Aerospace Council, to serve as a liaison between JCOTS and the Academy.

Senate Bill 531 (Surovell), related to authentication of public records, was referred by the 2016 Session of the General Assembly for study and review. Staff proposed conducting a staff work group with relevant stakeholders to begin working on the issues presented by the bill. JCOTS approved this work plan.

In public comment, Bud Oakey of Advantus Strategies encouraged JCOTS to look closely at the sales and use tax on aviation parts and labor as a part of the aerospace and aviation study. He noted that this is a competitive issue for Virginia, and our taxation of aviation parts is causing business to go elsewhere.

The meeting was adjourned.
